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THE DINING-ROOM—ARTICLE NUMBER FIVE.

I HAVE no doubt that a great many of my readers will agree with me when I say that the attractions of the dining-room are of no mean order. Among the many good things enjoyed there in the way of gastronomy, not least do we remember, the pleasant hours spent in the enjoyment of pleasing social intercourse, especially while the wine is circulating round the table.

A homely and cheerful dining-room, furnished with some evidence of good taste, must surely be credited with at least assisting in this desirable state of feeling.

An old proverb says: "A contented mind is a continual feast." If this be true how much more

dinner quickly without coming in contact with the family.

If the room has a recess large enough to take a sideboard so much the better; by this arrangement very often valuable space is saved. It must be remembered that ample room should be provided round the table, in addition to the space occupied by the chairs, to enable the servants to pass each other while serving at dinner.

A sunny aspect is always desirable if it can be obtained without sacrifice to the rooms in more general use.

Coming now to the question of furnishing, perhaps the room about to be decorated is a vulgar, common-place one in a modern house, the wood work of which has been painted and grained in imitation of oak or some other such favorite device of the so-called modern decoration.

This objectionable work should be removed and the wood work of the room painted two or three coats of oil color, the finishing tints of which I will suggest hereafter.

The sideboard or buffet should be a substantial piece of furniture arranged for the reception of glass, china, and plate, as shown in sketch number 1. This buffet, which I have designed after the

Probably the most satisfactory method is to take down the old chimney-piece and put up another in its place. The old one could be easily replaced when required.

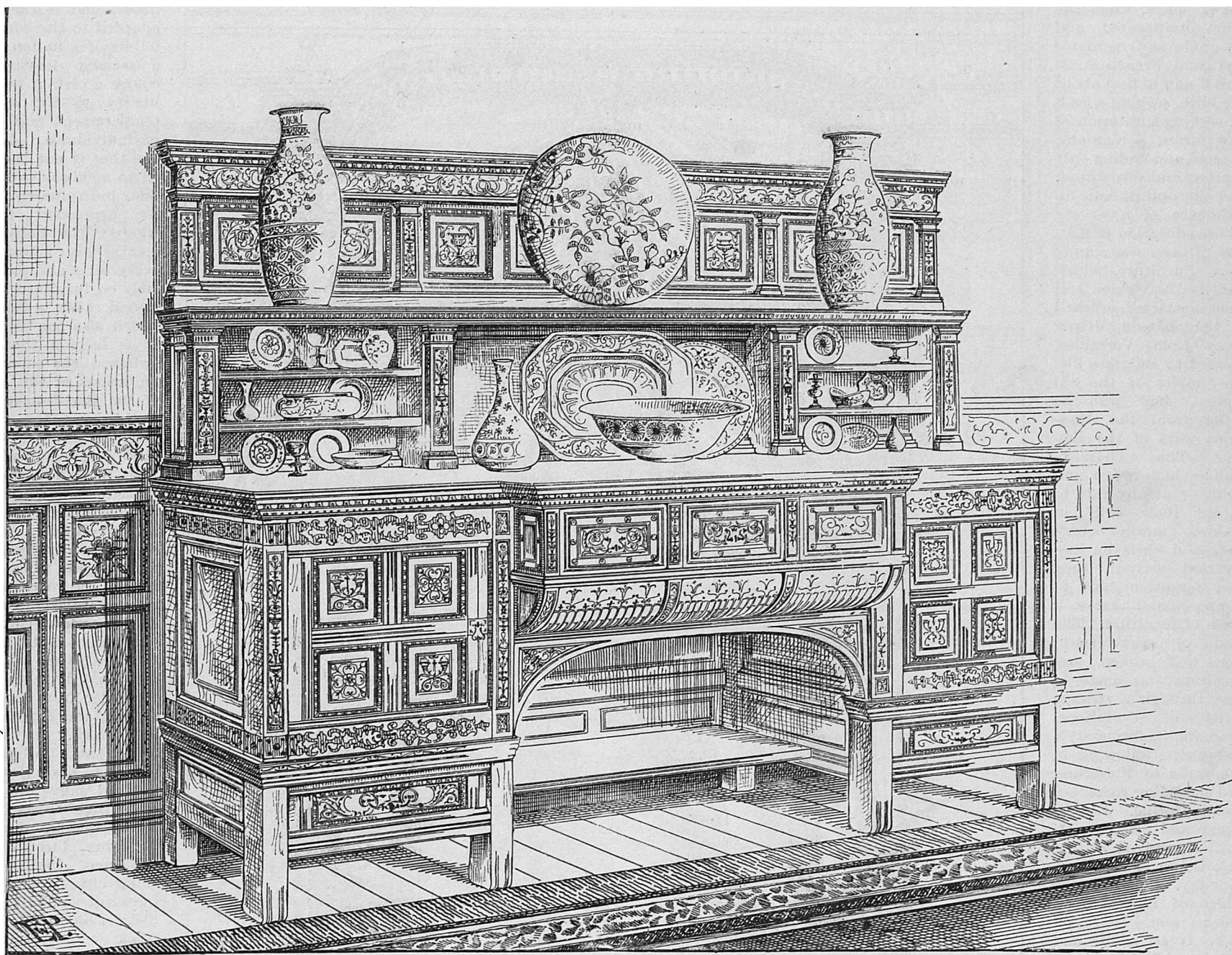
With reference to the treatment of the floors; covering the whole surface of the room with Brussels carpet is, to a very large extent, still one of the favorite means for collecting dust and dirt. A much simpler, less costly, and cleaner method is to either paint the margins of the room with a dark serviceable color, or stain them a rich brown and wax polish with beeswax and turpentine.

Very good and serviceable Kidderminster, Brussels, Wilton, and Axminster bordered carpets are now made in various good colors, and are very artistic in design.

Nothing can be better than the graceful harmonious coloring of good Turkish, Persian and Indian carpets; they are almost everlasting in wear, and are probably the cheapest in the long run, besides having the advantage of being easily taken up and shaken.

The practice of entirely covering the floors with carpet is an absurd modern invention, but it is very difficult to make materfamilias think so.

By all means avoid glaring obtrusive colors



Dining Room Sideboard • Sketch N° 1

should we enjoy our repast with our fancy enlivened with pleasurable and bright surroundings.

In considering how I can best assist my readers in decorating and furnishing their dining-rooms in a tasteful, and yet not too extravagant a manner, I think I cannot do better than making a start from the plain plastered walls and ceilings, to suggest various means of arriving at the desideratum.

One of the first things of importance to be considered is the position of the dining-room in its relation to the kitchen.

It is very convenient to have two entrances to the room, one leading from the hall for the use of the family, and the other for the servants entering from the serving place—so arranged as to keep out the objectionable odor of cooking going on in the kitchen.

The standard to be aimed at is to have the serving arrangements conveniently situated in their relation to the kitchen, and also for serving

Italian Renaissance, is arranged with paneled cupboard fronts at each side, one of which should be fitted up with cellaret and liquor trays. Two drawers are arranged below the cupboards, and the centre portion slightly projecting in front is also arranged with six roomy drawers for plate and other necessities for the table. A shelf is conveniently placed under the centre for the reception of a wine cooler. Furniture of this kind should be raised sufficiently high off the floor to allow passage for a broom or brush to keep the space free from the accumulation of dirt and dust, or they should be brought down to the floor and finished with molding.

The chimney-pieces usually found in modern houses are clumsy, hideous things, and very often gives rise to the difficult question of how they can best be concealed.

I have occasionally very successfully cased them in wood paneled to receive hand-painted tiles, leaving the cheeks, in the case of a marble chimney-piece, exposed as marble slips or lining.

and designs, offending all true principles by treating the ornamentation as natural objects, such as bunches of flowers lavishly worked in the carpet shaded in high relief; for however nice the sensation may be, I do not think it is desirable that the floors of our rooms should have the semblance of being a bed of roses.

THE highest aim of decorating and furnishing should be the production of perfect repose. Repose is secured by the mutual harmony of the walls, ceiling, carpet, hangings, furniture, ornaments, and whatever the room may contain. In order for perfect repose, the proportion which one part bears to another, and which the smaller pieces of furniture bear to the larger, must be carefully considered. Refinement of form also plays an important part in the production of a general repose. Color probably plays the largest part in the production of a perfect sense of repose in a room. Much experience is necessary in order that special and desired effects be achieved in a room.